

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

Paul pointed to two comings when he wrote to Titus: *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ [Titus 2:11-13].* You see how he has spoken of the first coming, for which he gives thanks, and of the second coming to which we look forward.

Hence it is that by the faith we profess, which has... been handed on to you, we believe in him who “ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ will, then, come from heaven. He will come in glory at the end of this present age on the last day. Then there will be an end to this age, and this created world will be made new.

~ St. Cyril of Jerusalem (4th cent.)

DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME

We are glad you decided to come and worship our God and Father through his Son Jesus Christ by His Spirit with us today! We are a mission church of the Presbyterian Church in America, with deep roots in the reformed catholic¹ tradition. Our mission is to glorify and enjoy God through faithful worship and proclamation of the Gospel, and our goal is to embody the love of God in Christ through our words and deeds, including practical, generous acts of love and service.

We want you to feel welcome, and we've prepared this guide to help you enter body and soul into worship. We deeply believe that worship is not just watching and listening; we are called to be active and engaged in the dialog between the covenant God who speaks and his people who respond. Please note:

- the words of Scripture are in *italics*,
 - **boldface type** indicates congregational participation,
 - words in *red* are guides to what's happening, and
 - the † symbol means everyone stands, as able.
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We have coffee and snacks in the fellowship hall following worship. We hope you will stay for a while so that we can get to know one another a little bit.

If you would like to seek prayer or physical help for any need; if you have questions about anything you have heard or about

- who Jesus is,
- what he has done, or
- why that matters;

or if you would simply like to connect with our pastor, feel free to reach out after the service, or email Pastor Frank at gracepreswt@gmail.com.

gracepcawatertown.org

¹We are catholic Christians because we are in communion with that Church from which the Gospel is spread throughout the world (St. Augustine, 2nd Homily on 1 John).

LORD'S DAY DIVINE SERVICE

The Welcome and Announcements

I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you ... for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

~ Genesis 17:7

The Prelude

*Take a moment to prepare in silence for worship
and to pray for God's assistance to worship him rightly.*

GOD CALLS US | WE GATHER TOGETHER AND PRAISE HIM

The Apostolic Greeting

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

†The Call to Worship

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,

Matthew 28:19

Amen!

The LORD be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And with your spirit!

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

Psalm 25:1-3

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God.

†The Hymn of Praise, p. 10

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

† Please stand, as able

†The Opening Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord:

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises: We your people and all the earth rejoice in the hope made manifest in the Savior's first coming. We look forward with longing to his return at the end of time, when he will rend the heavens and come down, and all things will be restored in your Kingdom of peace, happiness, and salvation. Prepare our hearts even now to receive him when he comes, and keep us safe for him in the way of truth, who together with you and the Holy Spirit are one Lord forever and ever.

O EMMANUEL, God Incarnate, King and Lawgiver, Savior of the world:
Come to save us, O Lord our God.

†The Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

GOD CLEANSSES US | WE CONFESS OUR SINS

The Call to Confession

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Psalm 25:4

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

The Confession of Sin, *in unison*

Psalm 25:5-11

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great...

Take a moment of silence to confess your particular sins to God through Jesus Christ our Advocate and Shield who sits at the God's right hand.

The Proclamation of Forgiveness

Psalm 25:12-14

Now lift up your heads and hear the comforting assurance of God's grace in Christ:

Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

The Prayer for Grace, *in unison* Order of Worship for the Reformed Church in the U.S.

Let us lift up our hearts to God in heaven.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

Let us pray together to the Lord:

Almighty God: Give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, now and forever. AMEN.

GOD CONSECRATES US | WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND OFFERING

The Offering Prayer and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

GOD SPEAKS TO US | WE HEAR IN FAITH

The Scripture Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

The Old Testament Reading: *Jeremiah 30:18-22*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: *Romans 5:14-21*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

†The Gospel Reading: *John 3:25-30*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon Text: *Revelation 21:1-8*

The Prayer for Illumination

The Sermon

GOD COMMUNES WITH US | WE EAT AND DRINK
WITH THE LORD AND ONE ANOTHER

The Invitation to the Meal and Fencing of the Table

† The Hymn of Preparation, p. 12

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

† The Confession of Our Faith, p. 13, *in unison*

The Nicene Creed

† The Passing of the Peace

1 Corinthians 6:11; Romans 5:1

You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

† The Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

† The Prayer of Humble Access, *in unison*

The Book of Common Prayer, 1552

We do not presume to come to this your table, O Merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord who ever loves to show mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his cup, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
AMEN.

The Prayer of Consecration

The Serving of the Elements

Brothers and sisters, lift your eyes from the visible elements and lift up your heart to heaven, where Christ is now, seated at the right hand of the Father, from where he will come again to complete our redemption. In him alone are all the promises of God fulfilled and all Spiritual blessings found.

Come to the Table now in joy of heart, in Spirit-wrought unity, in holy love, and partake of the Feast of Christ, giving thanks for the great love that God has shown us.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

† The Hymn of Response, p. 14

O Word of God Incarnate

The Prayer of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer, *in unison*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

GOD COMMISSIONS AND BLESSES US | WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

† Closing Hymn, p. 15

May the Grace of Christ our Savior

† The Song of Simeon, p. 15, *in unison*

Luke 2:29-32

†The Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

†The Benediction and the People's Amen **Revelation 22: 12-13; Numbers 6:24-26**

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

So be it! Come, Lord Jesus!

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **AMEN.***

Sermon Notes

The First Vision: The New Heaven and the New Earth

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold the
2. A help - er just, he comes to thee, his char - iot
3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for



draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.



5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
 Let me thy inner presence feel;
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

Once in Royal David's City



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3. And our eyes at last shall see him, thro' his own re - deem - ing love;
4. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove:
we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.



Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

The Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE IN one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.

AND IN one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;

Who for us, and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

And he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

AND WE BELIEVE IN the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son
together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;

AND WE BELIEVE IN one holy catholic and apostolic Church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

AND WE LOOK for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

O Word of God Incarnate

1. O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2. The church from her dear Mas - ter re - ceived the gift di - vine,
3. It float - eth like a ban - ner be - fore God's host un - furled;
4. O make thy church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky,
and still that light she lift - eth o'er all the earth to shine.
it shin - eth like a bea - con a - bove the dark - ling world.
to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light, as of old.

we praise thee for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the gold - en cas - ket, where gems of truth are stored;
It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,
O teach thy wan - d'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
it is the heav'n - drawn pic - ture of Christ, the liv - ing Word.
'mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.
'til, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

May the Grace of Christ our Savior

1. May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the
2. Thus may we a - bide in un - ion with each

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Fa - ther's bound - less love, with the Ho - ly Spir - it's
oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess, in sweet com -

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

fa - vor, rest up - on us from a - bove.
mun - ion, joys which earth can - not af - ford. A - men.

The third system of music concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

The Song of Simeon – Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. AMEN.

*We are God's people.
We proclaim Christ,
who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
In him we are
Taught by the Truth and
Liberated by the Life to
Walk in the Way.
The goal of our instruction is love
for God and neighbor
that flows from a pure heart and
a clear conscience and
a sincere faith.*



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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